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To: All CACFP Child Care Programs
From: Sally Bartlett, B.S., Specialist
Date: September 8, 2005
Subject: Emergency Feeding in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) in Area Affected by Hurricane Katrina
Policy Memo CACFP-05-11

This memorandum is to announce the Food and Nutrition Service's (FNS) policy for the feeding of eligible children and adults in the CACFP in areas affected by Hurricane Katrina.

The waivers discussed in this memorandum are in effect through September 30, 2005. We will continue to monitor the situation in these areas and provide updates and extensions, as appropriate.

Emergency Shelters in CACFP

- Where significant numbers of persons displaced by Hurricane Katrina are being temporarily housed, State agencies (SAs) may designate any appropriate facility as an emergency shelter, and may waive institution application requirements in these situations.
- When SAs have designated a facility as an emergency shelter, all children through age 18, and any adults normally eligible to receive benefits in the adult day care segment of CACFP, may receive up to three free meals (breakfast, lunch, and supper, or two meals and a snack) per day.
- If a school is providing educational services, and is also housing displaced persons eligible for CACFP, the school may sign an agreement with the CACFP SA and serve up to three meals per day without charge to such persons, as described above. The SA may waive institution application requirements.

At-Risk Snack Programs in the CACFP

- In those areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina, all locations are considered “area eligible”.
- In those areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina, and in other areas where there are significant numbers of persons displaced by the disaster, the SA may approve sites to serve at-risk after school snacks, including on holidays and weekends, without regard to the requirement to provide “enrichment or educational” activities.

Other Child and Adult Care Facilities (Homes and Centers) Participating in CACFP:

- In areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina, any independent child or adult care center or any child or adult care facility still operating, but unable to maintain normal accountability systems, will be allowed to serve all meals free (or, in family day care homes, at the tier I rate) to all attending children.
- In areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina, and in other areas where there are significant numbers of persons displaced by the disaster, to the extent that enrollment and income eligibility forms cannot be obtained from displaced persons, center officials or the day care home provider may document free meal eligibility for displaced participants being served by compiling and retaining a list (roster) of such persons.
- In areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina, and in other areas where there are significant numbers of persons displaced by the disaster, to the extent that enrollment and income eligibility forms can be obtained from displaced persons:
 - Households certified for emergency food stamps are automatically eligible for free meals in centers or tier I meals in family day care homes;
 - Displaced individuals may be considered homeless, and automatically eligible for free meals in centers and tier I meals in family day care homes, even if they are temporarily residing with another family. However, the host family would have to provide a revised application (and can include those displaced by the disaster as long as any income provided to the host family is also included on the application) in order for the host family’s children to be eligible for free or reduced price meal benefits;

- If an income eligibility statement cannot be obtained from a displaced household, a center official or the family day care provider may complete an application on behalf of the displaced participant, based on the best available knowledge of the household's economic circumstances.
- Center officials, or the family day care provider, should review eligibility determinations made under these crisis procedures within 45 days.

Deadlines for Submission of Paperwork

- For sponsors or independent centers located in disaster areas, or for sponsors serving a significant number of facilities located in disaster areas, the SA may postpone normal deadlines for renewal of institution applications, information updates (for institutions on a three-year application renewal cycle), and day care home tiering determinations until November 1, 2005.
- For any facility or institution in an area devastated by Katrina, August claims can be submitted by December 31, 2005, without a request for waiver of the 60-day deadline due to good cause.

In all components of CACFP

- In areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina, and in any area where Hurricane Katrina has disrupted the normal availability of foods and it is not possible to follow the meal pattern, SAs may permit appropriate flexibility to facilities and institutions in meeting the meal pattern requirements.

If there are any questions concerning this policy call the Child Nutrition Division at 208-332-6820.